(b) since when the above Plant has *been* generating power; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a new Atomic Plant there to generate additional power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) The economic life of Narora Atomic Power Station is taken as 25 years.

(b) The first 235 MWe unit of Narora Atomic PC>wer Station was synchronised to the Northern Grid in July, 1989 and since then the plant has been supplying infirm power to the gird. The power output has been increased steadily. It is now operating at 150 MWe. Unit-II of NAPS has so far not commenced generating electricity.

(c) No, Sir,

Failure of Computer Literacy and Starties in Schools Project

*5. SHRI ASHWANl KUMAR:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL
I SHARMA;

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact thatthe Computer Literacy a[illegible]1934 has been stagnating since

(b) whether the two Committees set up in 1987 to evaluate the hardware and software requirements of; the progiamme have submitted their reports;

(c) if so, what are the main features thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in submi'ting these reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (d) A Pilot Project for Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) was started in 1984-85 in 248 schools. The Project has been extended on a year to year basis till 1989-90 covering 2350 additional schools. During the current year a budget provision of Rs. 6.00 crores has been made for the Project. It is not true that the Project is likely to be discontinued. An expanded programme for covering 13,000 Senior Secondary Schools with an outlay of Rs. 198.5 crores was proposed in 1988 but it has not been possible to implement it due to paucity of funds.

A Working Group was constituted on 17.10.1986 under the Chairmanship of Education Secretary to specify programme objectives for Computer Education in Schools and devise Systems specifications from the users point of view keeping in mind the experience obtained in the implementaton of CLASS Project. The Working Group submitted its report in February, 1988. Some of the important recommendations of the Group were as below:

(i) The objectives as originally specified should be retained.

(ii) The programme for the present should be at plus 2 stage and should cover all the higher secondary schools by 1990.

(iiii) The hardware choice should be re-assessed periodically to ensure supply of the most suitable systems to the schools.

(iv) The number of micro-computers in a school should be enough to cover all the students at plus 2 stage, which would mean supply of 5 to 8 micro-computers per school depending on enrolment.

(v) Use of Indian languages which are the medium of instruction in schools must be maximised both in hardware operation and as medium of software.